

sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity, preferably at least about 81% sequence identity, more preferably at least about 82% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 83% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 84% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 85% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 86% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 87% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 88% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 89% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 90% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 91% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 92% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 93% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 94% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 95% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 96% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 97% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 98% sequence identity and yet more preferably at least about 99% sequence identity to a PRO polypeptide having a full-length amino acid sequence as disclosed herein, an amino acid sequence lacking the signal peptide as disclosed herein, an extracellular domain of a transmembrane protein, with or without the signal peptide, as disclosed herein or any other specifically defined fragment of the full-length amino acid sequence as disclosed herein.

In a further aspect, the invention concerns an isolated PRO polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity, preferably at least about 81% sequence identity, more preferably at least about 82% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 83% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 84% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 85% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 86% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 87% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 88% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 89% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 90% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 91% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 92% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 93% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 94% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 95% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 96% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 97% sequence identity, yet more preferably at least about 98% sequence identity and yet more preferably at least about 99% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence encoded by any of the human protein cDNAs deposited with the ATCC as disclosed herein.

In a further aspect, the invention concerns an isolated PRO polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence scoring at least about 80% positives, preferably at least about 81% positives, more preferably at least about 82% positives, yet more preferably at least about 83% positives, yet more preferably at least about 84% positives, yet more preferably at least about 85% positives, yet more preferably at least about 86% positives, yet more preferably at least about 87% positives, yet more preferably at least about 88% positives, yet more preferably at least about 89% positives, yet more preferably at least about 90% positives, yet more preferably at least about 91% positives, yet more preferably at least about 92% positives, yet more preferably at least about 93% positives, yet more preferably at least about 94% positives, yet more preferably at least about 95% positives, yet more preferably at least about 96% positives, yet more preferably at least about 97% positives, yet more preferably at least about 98% positives and yet more preferably at least about 99% positives when compared with the amino acid sequence of a PRO polypeptide having a full-length amino acid sequence as disclosed herein, an amino acid sequence lacking the signal peptide as disclosed herein, an extracellular domain

of a transmembrane protein, with or without the signal peptide, as disclosed herein or any other specifically defined fragment of the full-length amino acid sequence as disclosed herein.

In a specific aspect, the invention provides an isolated PRO polypeptide without the N-terminal signal sequence and/or the initiating methionine and is encoded by a nucleotide sequence that encodes such an amino acid sequence as hereinbefore described. Processes for producing the same are also herein described, wherein those processes comprise culturing a host cell comprising a vector which comprises the appropriate encoding nucleic acid molecule under conditions suitable for expression of the PRO polypeptide and recovering the PRO polypeptide from the cell culture.

Another aspect the invention provides an isolated PRO polypeptide which is either transmembrane domain-deleted or transmembrane domain-inactivated. Processes for producing the same are also herein described, wherein those processes comprise culturing a host cell comprising a vector which comprises the appropriate encoding nucleic acid molecule under conditions suitable for expression of the PRO polypeptide and recovering the PRO polypeptide from the cell culture.

In yet another embodiment, the invention concerns agonists and antagonists of a native PRO polypeptide as defined herein. In a particular embodiment, the agonist or antagonist is an anti-PRO antibody or a small molecule.

In a further embodiment, the invention concerns a method of identifying agonists or antagonists to a PRO polypeptide which comprise contacting the PRO polypeptide with a candidate molecule and monitoring a biological activity mediated by said PRO polypeptide. Preferably, the PRO polypeptide is a native PRO polypeptide.

In a still further embodiment, the invention concerns a composition of matter comprising a PRO polypeptide, or an agonist or antagonist of a PRO polypeptide as herein described, or an anti-PRO antibody, in combination with a carrier. Optionally, the carrier is a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to the use of a PRO polypeptide, or an agonist or antagonist thereof as hereinbefore described, or an anti-PRO antibody, for the preparation of a medicament useful in the treatment of a condition which is responsive to the PRO polypeptide, an agonist or antagonist thereof or an anti-PRO antibody.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) of a native sequence PRO213 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:1 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ187" and/or "DNA30943-1163".

Figure 2 shows the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) derived from the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:6) of a native sequence PRO274 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:6 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ241" and/or "DNA39987-1184".

Figure 4 shows the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:7) derived from the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 shown in Figure 3.

Figure 5 shows an EST nucleotide sequence designated herein as DNA17873 (SEQ ID NO:8).

Figure 6 shows an EST nucleotide sequence designated herein as DNA36157 (SEQ ID NO:9).

Figure 7 shows an EST nucleotide sequence designated herein as DNA28929 (SEQ ID NO:10).

Figure 8 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:18) of a native sequence PRO300 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:18 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ263" and/or "DNA40625-1189".

5 ID NO:18 shown in Figure 8.

Figure 10 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:27) of a native sequence PRO284 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:27 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ247" and/or "DNA23318-1211".

Figure 11 shows the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:28) derived from the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:27 shown in Figure 10.

10 Figure 12 shows an EST nucleotide sequence designated herein as DNA12982 (SEQ ID NO:29).

Figure 13 shows an EST nucleotide sequence designated herein as DNA15886 (SEQ ID NO:30).

Figure 14 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:35) of a native sequence PRO296 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:35 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ260" and/or "DNA39979-1213".

15 ID NO:35 shown in Figure 14.

Figure 16 shows an EST nucleotide sequence designated herein as DNA23020 (SEQ ID NO:37).

Figure 17 shows an EST nucleotide sequence designated herein as DNA21971 (SEQ ID NO:38).

Figure 18 shows an EST nucleotide sequence designated herein as DNA29037 (SEQ ID NO:39).

20 Figure 19 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:44) of a native sequence PRO329 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:44 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ291" and/or "DNA40594-1233".

Figure 20 shows the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:45) derived from the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:44 shown in Figure 19.

Figure 21 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:51) of a native sequence PRO362 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:51 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ317" and/or "DNA45416-1251".

25 Figure 22 shows the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:52) derived from the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:51 shown in Figure 21.

Figure 23 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:58) of a native sequence PRO363 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:58 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ318" and/or "DNA45419-1252".

30 ID NO:58 shown in Figure 23.

Figure 25 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:63) of a native sequence PRO868 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:63 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ437" and/or "DNA52594-1270".

Figure 26 shows the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:64) derived from the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:63 shown in Figure 25.

35 Figure 27 shows a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:68) of a native sequence PRO382 cDNA, wherein SEQ ID NO:68 is a clone designated herein as "UNQ323" and/or "DNA45234-1277".

Figure 28 shows the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:69) derived from the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:68 shown in Figure 27.